in a large organization like the Railways spread over the entire country, at any point of time. Since the sanctioned strength of staff includes provision for leave reserve, rest givers and for training, these take care of gaps, if any, between occurrence and filling up of vacancies. The steps to fill up the vacancies include promptly placing indents on Railway Recruitment Boards for direct recruitment and conducting selections/ suitability/trade tests for promotion timely. The Safety, Security and Operational categories have been exempted from the purview of rightsizing and hence recruitment ordered to the full extent. Details of vacancies in safety categories zone-wise and cadre-wise as on 30.11.2003 will be collected and placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Siding track of KRIBHCO

1961. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of industrial growth of the area around Hajira Port, railways accept the need of connecting Hajira Port to its hinterland;

(b) whether Railways will consider to extend the siding track of KRIBHCO up to Hajira; and

(c) if so, by when this work will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The project is a part of the port connectivity initiative under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY). The project can be taken up once the financial feasibility is established by the technical and financial study underway.

Vigyan Rail

1962. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways postponed the train 'Vigyan Rail' which was intended to spread awareness about progress, the country has achieved in Science and Technology;

(b) if so, what are the special features of the train;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

(d) by when it is likely to go round the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) 'Vigyan Rail' Science Exhibition Train — a project of the Department of Science & Technology — has already started on 15th December, 2003 on its journey of about eight months in the country.

(b) The said Exhibition train consists of 12 Exhibition Coaches highlighting various scientific, technological & industrial achievements.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Loans by KRCL

1963. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) outstanding loans owned by the Konkan Railway Corporation as on date;

(b) list of loans for which the Central Government or its Ministries have offered guarantees, or letters of comfort or similar assurances under whatsoever terms;

(c) total expenditure, so far, on the Konkan Railway project;

(d) cost estimate of setting up the railway project, at its launch; and

(e) whether the plans for running this project on a build-operate-transfer basis still seem viable, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Rs. 4635.27 crores. Out of this Rs. 1958.90 crores is the loan from Ministry of Railways and Rs. 2676.37 crores is market borrowings in the form of bonds.

(b) A Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Rs. 3531 crores as on 31.3.2003.

(d) The initial estimate at the time of launch of Konkan Railway was Rs. 1043 crores excluding financing cost.